
V. REMARKS

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Hirota (EP 691 517) in view of Izumi (U.S. Patent No. 3,858,406). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Hirota teaches an expansion valve. A valve casing is disposed to penetrate a high-pressure refrigerant passage connected to an inlet of an evaporator and a low-pressure refrigerant passage connected to an outlet of the evaporator which is formed so that the inside diameter of the low-pressure refrigerant passage is not smaller than the inside diameter of the high-pressure refrigerant passage. A unit which is integrally composed of a thermo-sensitive chamber for sensing any change in temperature of the refrigerant in the low-pressure refrigerant passage to raise or lower of the pressure therein. A valve mechanism is driven by the raised or lowered pressure in the thermo-sensitive chamber to open or close the high-pressure refrigerant channel. The unit is inserted into the valve casing from a side of the low-pressure refrigerant channel. The thermo-sensitive chamber is disposed in the opening at the inlet of the valve casing so that the opening is closed by the thermo-sensitive chamber and that the unit as a whole can be drawn out from the valve casing by pulling the thermo-sensitive chamber portion outwardly.

Izumi discloses a refrigerant evaporator for an air conditioner. A fin and tube assembly having an end wall and a coil with inlet and outlet ends project through the end wall. The coil is formed from a plurality of U-shaped tubes interconnected by the end wall in a series arrangement. The refrigerant evaporator also includes an expansion valve, a back pressure valve and a connector connecting the expansion valve. The back pressure valve and the coil of the fin and tube assembly are connected in a refrigerant flow relationship. The connector is formed integrally with the end wall, the expansion valve and the back pressure valve.

Claim 1, as amended, is directed to an expansion valve that includes a cassette unit containing major components of the expansion valve and a housing. Claim 1 recites that the housing has a housing refrigerant path extending along a longitudinal direction and cassette unit receiving hole in fluid communication with and extending transversely to the refrigerant path and sized for accommodating the cassette unit via a seal member. Claim 1 also recites that the cassette unit includes

a pipe member, a cassette unit refrigerant path formed to the pipe member, a flange member connected to an end of the pipe member, a lid member covering the flange member, a diaphragm disposed between the flange member and the lid member, and a valve mechanism for transmitting a displacement of the diaphragm to a valve member so as to control the flow of refrigerant. Further, claim 1 also recites that the housing is formed integrally with an evaporator of an air conditioner.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection is improper because the applied art fails to teach each element of claim 1 as we propose to amend it. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art fails to teach a cassette unit and housing having a housing refrigerant path extending along a longitudinal direction and cassette unit receiving hole in fluid communication with and extending transversely to the refrigerant path and sized for accommodating the cassette unit via a seal member. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over the applied art.

Claims 2-4 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

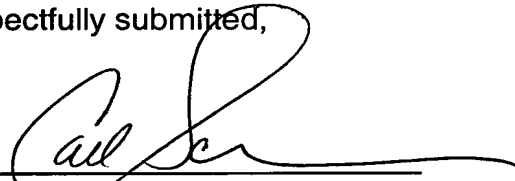
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

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